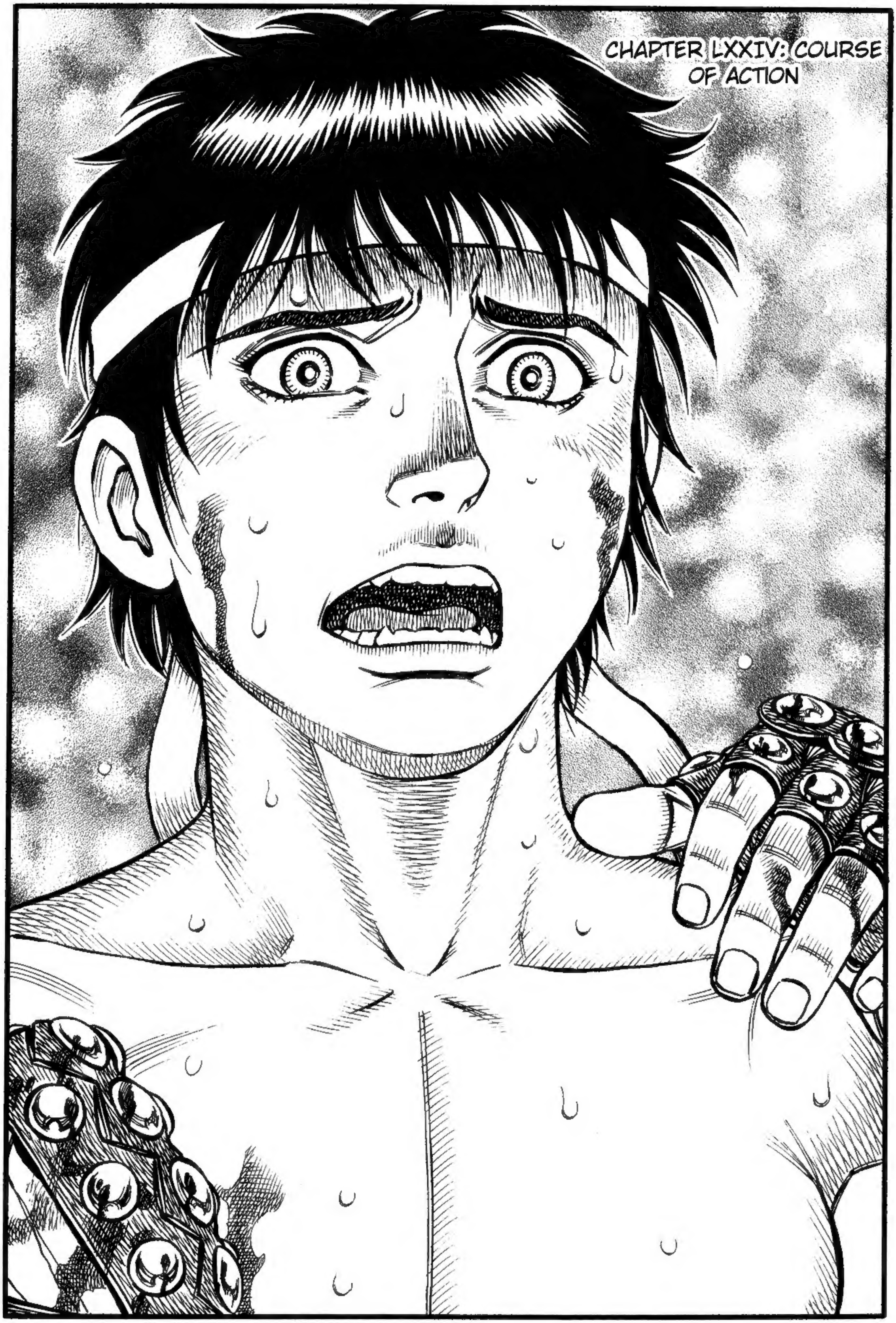
CHAPTER LXXIV: COURSE OF ACTION



COME ON...

CO...

COME ON...

END THIS!

ENOUGH MONSON!

AH... HAAAH.

AAH...

I COULD END UP KILLING A MAN WITH MY FISTS!

ONE MORE PUNCH WILL KILL HIM...!

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT....!

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

I... I CAN'T GO ON.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

AH...

AAH...

HAAAH!

I DON'T LIKE THIS!

END IT, REF!

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

!

SOMEONE, STOP THIS!

GYLAI.

GYLAI.

THAT AIN'T NEEDED...

GURGH.

I'LL DO IT...

THIS IS NO JOKE.

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT AFTER THIS.

LET ME DO IT, IDIOTS.

AH...

THUMP.

WITHOUT THE STARES AND CRIES OF THE SPECTATORS...

PITIED BY MY COMRADES...

THUMP.

THUMP.

THUMP.

SO THIS, IS THE END...

THUMP.

TO THINK I'D LOSE OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY...

THUMP.

THUMP.

WHAT A...

PATHETIC END TO IT ALL.

SHIT, WAIT!

WAIT, DAMN IT!

BRING SOME WATER!

ANYTHING MORE WOULD BE FUTILE, MONSON!

DON'T MOVE.

...

LET HIM REST LIKE THIS.

HE'S FROTHING AT THE MOUTH.

OI, SOMEONE GET A SHADE!

DON'T MOVE CARE-LESSLY!

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

THE FIGHT IS OVER.

PUT YOUR FISTS DOWN, CESTVS.

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...

ハァハァ

IT'S OVER.

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ガチ

CESTVS.

CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?!

THEY'RE LETTING MONSON REST FOR THE MOMENT.

AS YOU WERE THE LAST ONE STANDING, IT'S YOUR WIN...

ズキ!!

ズキ!!

ズキ!!

WHEN I GET WORKED UP, I STRIKE TOO HARD...

MY FISTS ARE SO HOT...

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BURNING.

AS THOUGH ANYTHING'S BROKEN.

IT DOESN'T LOOK...

THOUGH IT WAS HARDLY LIKE I WAS CONCERNED FOR MY OPPONENT'S BODY EITHER.

フッ:

I DON'T THINK I WAS BEING CONCEITED IN AIMING FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION.

チャポ.

THE MATCH WAS SO FRIGHTENING THAT I WET MYSELF.

MY INEXPERIENCE WAS PATHETIC...

HOW EXACTLY WAS THAT A WIN FOR ME?

GO ON, HAVE A SEAT...

IT MIGHT BE HARD TO TALK WHILE STOOD.

I'VE USED MY FISTS TO EARN MY KEEP SINCE I WAS 12

I'LL HAVE BEEN WITH YOU FOR A LL' OVER 10 YEARS NOW

#12.

EVEN IF I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR A FULL 30 YEARS, I CAN NEVER RECALL MY PROUD FISTS EVER BEING IN PAIN

YET I KNOW THAT APART FROM THEM, EVERYWHERE ELSE IS BROKEN DOWN

ORIGIN-ALLY—

THIS WAS NOT SOMETHING I PICKED UP BY CHOICE

I JUST HAD NOTHING ELSE GOING FOR ME

ULTIMATELY NEITHER THE BEGINNING

NOR THE END

HAVE GONE AS I WANTED...

YOU WERE MY BIGGEST EARNER FOR A LONG TIME.

SO I'LL TELL YOU THIS STRAIGHT...

AS FAR AS MONEY GOES, YOU SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TO BUY YOUR FREEDOM, MONSON.

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME NOW...

OR ELSE...

IT'D BE THE SAME AS YOU CHUCKING AWAY YOUR CHANCE TO START OVER.

I COULD BET IT ALL AWAY ON SOME TIRED OLD MATCH...

I AIN'T NO LEARNING, NO RELATIVES, NO YOUTH...

A CHANCE TO START OVER EH...

?!

UNTIL NOW I'D FIGURED I WAS A TRUE BOXER, NOTHING MORE.

WHAT COULD A GUY LIKE THAT, SUDDENLY SET OUT FOR FREE IN THE WORLD, DO?

THERE ARE MANY SLAVE BOXERS WHO'VE GRITTED THEIR TEETH, AND FOUND WAYS TO GO BACK INTO SOCIETY!

I'M NOT SAYING THAT MONSON!

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO START MY LIFE OVER?!

WHAT'D HE DO?!

ウウ…

SO NOW IS THE TIME FOR MY RETURN?

HAVE A PROPER THINK ABOUT IT NOW.

IT'S YOUR LIFE!

AS THOUGH THERE'S ANY PLACE FOR THOSE BORN AS SLAVES TO HEAD BACK TO.

ALL THAT WOULD HAPPEN IS I END UP A THIEF, WORRYING OVER FOOD.

SURPRISINGLY KIND OF YOU...

NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL, BOSS.

YOU'VE SERVED ME FOR A LONG TIME.

YOU COULD WELL STAY ON HERE AS AN INSTRUCTOR.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY...?

I'VE HAD ENOUH OF PITY IN DEFEAT.

I CAN HEAD ELSEWHERE AND EARN SOME MONEY!

SO LONG AS I CAN MOVE, I CAN MAKE A LIVING.

HMPH... YOU THINK I'VE...

THE CHARACTER FOR AN INSTRUCTOR?

YOU DAMN FOOL...